

The Bethlehem Star

October, 2022



Happy October!

I am always surprised with how quickly a month comes and goes, but here we are already: October! Not only is the weather finally cooling off, we also have a break coming up for everyone. As the season is changing, please make sure your child has appropriate attire for outside play. Jackets and sweatshirts should be labeled with your child's name in case they end up in our Lost & Found. We already have a generous supply of items in the Lost & Found, so having a name on an item is very helpful in getting it returned to the owner.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting grade level Music & Literacy Nights this year. Our amazing music teacher, Mrs. Boswell, is partnering with each grade level to craft some fun musical performances that will be followed by a literacy-related activity in your child's classroom. Please see the image below for your child's scheduled event. We hope to see you there!

Fall Break is October 10-14. Please remember that Friday, October 7 is a Teacher Planning Day, so our students will get to start their Fall Break a day early. We will return to school on Monday, October 17. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing week!

Mrs. Reid

Mark your calendar for *Music & Literacy Night*

This year, each grade level will hold a Music & Literacy Night. Students will participate in a short musical performance in the gym. Following the performance, students and families will return to the child's classroom. In classrooms, students and families will participate in literacy related activities.

Each Music & Literacy Night will take place from 6:00-7:00pm.

Kindergarten- Tuesday, October 25th

4th grade- Thursday, November 10th

PreK- Thursday, November 17th (All in classrooms)

2nd grade- Thursday, December 1st

5th grade- Tuesday, January 31st

1st grade- Thursday, February 23rd

3rd grade- Thursday, March 23rd



October Calendar

- 3: Custodian Appreciation Day
- 5: 2nd Grade Field Trip to Washington Farms
- 6: End of 1st Grading Period
- 7: Teacher Planning Day (No School for Students); Parent-Teacher Conferences Begin
- 10-14: Fall Break (No School)
- 17-21: School Bus Safety Week & Digital Citizenship Week
- 18: BCSS New Elementary School Community Meeting 6:00 PM BES Cafeteria
- 19: Report Cards Go Home
- 20: 50th Day of School: 50's Spirit Day
- 21: Rock Your School Day (Various themes by homeroom/grade level)
- 24-28: Red Ribbon Week
- 25: Kindergarten Music & Literacy Night

28: Kindergarten Field Trip to Washington Farms

31: Book Character Day



Thank You for a Successful Scholastic Book Fair!

A BIG thank you to Mrs. Johnson, our media specialist, for all of her work in conducting the fair. We appreciate her so much!

Thank you, families, for supporting the book fair with your purchases. The kids were so excited to get new books!

We would also like to thank all who volunteered to help with the Scholastic Book Fair! We appreciate your help in making this a great experience for our kids.



How was school today?

Have you ever asked your child, "How was school today?" and received an answer with very little information? Here are some questions recommended by Parenting Pathfinders that you can ask to encourage a deeper conversation about their time at school and to help them share more things that they experienced throughout their day. Try choosing one or two to try with your child!

- What made you smile today?

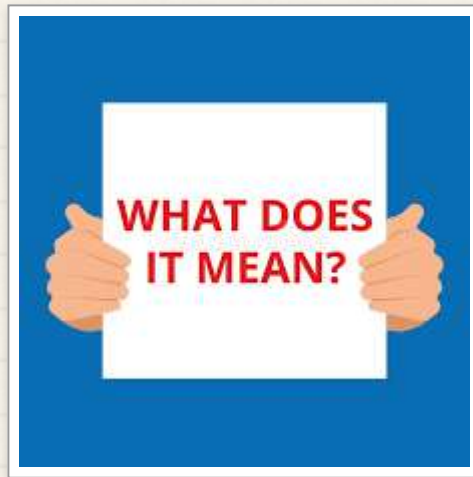
- What's something new that you got to learn today?
- Who did you play with today?
- Who did you talk to during lunch?
- What's something interesting that you read or experienced today?
- What's something that happened today that you are grateful for?
- Who's someone that helped you today?
- Who's someone that you helped today?
- What are you most proud of today?
- What's something that felt difficult today?
- What's something that you're looking forward to getting to do again tomorrow?
- What's something about school that you would change if you could?
- When were you feeling happiest today?



K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences

You will soon be contacted by your child's teacher to schedule a parent-teacher conference. Our goal is to meet in-person with 100% of our families. These are such important meetings that not only afford you the opportunity to hear about your child's progress, but also foster a positive relationship between home and school. Our teachers are so excited to sit down with you to share great things about your child.

Please note: In addition to meeting with your child's teacher in the coming weeks, you will receive his/her report card on Wednesday, October 19.



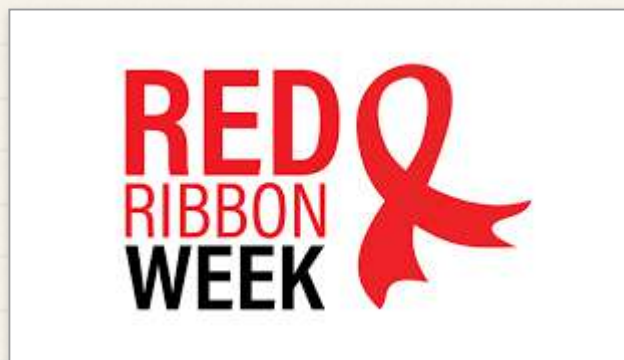
School Lingo

The world of education is filled with jargon that schools are very familiar with, but those outside of education are not. To help decipher some of the words/phrases you may hear from your child's teacher or the school regarding your child's progress, here are some brief definitions that we hope you find helpful.

DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills): These assessments are given in grades K-3 to measure the acquisition of early literacy skills.

TRC (Text Reading Comprehension): These assessments are given in grades K-5 to help teachers understand student reading development by measuring a range of skills including reading fluency, accuracy and comprehension.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress): MAP is an assessment given in grades K-5 for measuring achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage, and science.



Red Ribbon Week

This year's theme for National Red Ribbon Week is "Celebrate Life: I Can Live Drug-Free." We will celebrate Red Ribbon Week **October 24-28**. Here are the themes we will be implementing each day. We hope your child will participate.

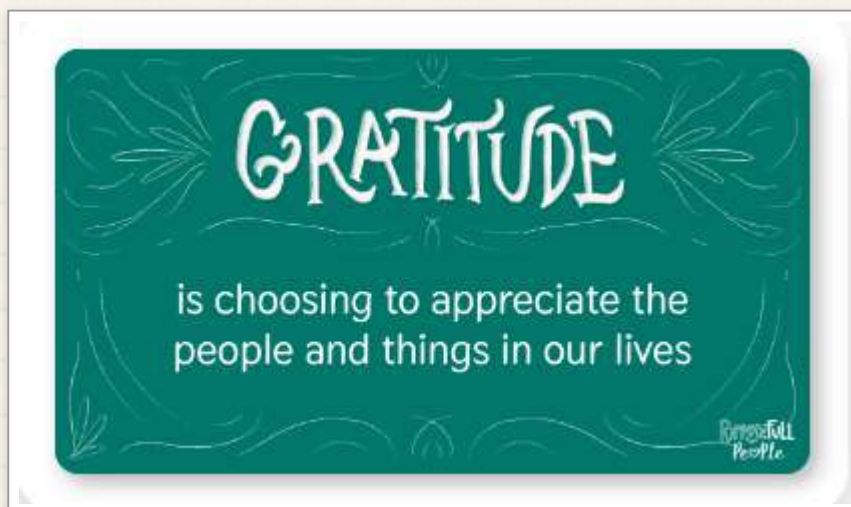
Monday: I Can Celebrate-Wear RED

Tuesday: I Can Dream Big Dreams-Wear Pajamas

Wednesday: I Can Work Hard-Wear Workout Clothes

Thursday: I Can Make Smart Choices-Wear a Hat

Friday: I Can Do My BEST!-Wear BES School Spirit Wear (or blue/white/yellow)



PBIS News

We were so excited to have our PBIS Star Store open this month. Our students have been shopping with their earned STAR POINTS, and they are so proud of their purchases. Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Martin are soon to be a key part of some students' celebrations when we have the dunk tank at our school on October 6.

Teachers, staff, and students have been focusing on our Character Strong words of the month in addition to the 3 Be's (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, & Be Safe). In August, we focused on RESPECT and the month of September highlighted RESPONSIBILITY. As we transition to a new word of the month-GRATITUDE, we will continue to encourage and reinforce how these important traits can be demonstrated toward self, peers and adults both in school and outside of school. We appreciate your partnership in supporting our students with striving to demonstrate appropriate academic and social behaviors each and every day.

Mrs. S. Martin & Mrs. J. Martin

Clinic News from Nurse Moira

Please see the information below regarding determining when your child should not come to school. The Parent Tips section has some great advice. Thank you!

Nurse Moira

When is sick too sick for school?

Keep your child home for any of the following symptoms:

Fever

If your child has a fever over 100.4°F, keep them at home until their fever is below 100°F for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. If the fever does not go away after 2-3 days or is 102°F or higher, you should consult with a healthcare provider.

Diarrhea

If your child has frequent, loose, or watery stool or also has symptoms of illness, has a fever, or is vomiting, keep them at home. Child should be diarrhea and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If stool is bloody, if the child has abdominal pain, fever, or vomiting, you should consult a healthcare provider.

Vomiting

If your child has vomited two or more times in a 24 hour period, or has additional symptoms, then keep your child home until the vomiting has stopped for 24 hours. If vomiting continues, consult with a healthcare provider.

Coughing

If your child has a severe, uncontrolled, rapid cough, wheezing, or difficulty breathing, keep your child at home and consult with a healthcare provider.

If symptoms are due to Asthma, provide treatment according to your child's Asthma Action Plan. When symptoms are controlled, send your child to school.

Rash with Fever

If a rash spreads quickly, is not healing, or has open, weeping wounds, you should keep your child at home and consult with a healthcare provider. A diagnosis and a written release to return to school should be provided by a healthcare provider to the school's health aide.

Strep Throat

If your child has a sore throat with fever, stomach ache, redness, or swollen tonsils, keep your child at home and consult with a healthcare provider. With a diagnosis of strep throat, keep your child home for the first 24 hours after beginning antibiotics.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Keep your child at home until a healthcare provider has determined that your child is not contagious.

Chicken Pox – fever, headache, stomach ache or sore throat, then a red itchy skin rash develops on the stomach first and then limbs and face.

Measles & Rubella (German Measles) – swollen glands, rash that starts behind ears then the face and the rest of the body, sore joints, mild fever and cough, red eyes.

Mumps – fever, headache, muscle aches, loss of appetite, swollen tender salivary glands.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) – many rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop", vomiting, very tired.

Parent Tips

School is a child's work. When they miss too many days of school, they fall behind and struggle to keep up with their classmates. Both excused and unexcused absences will affect their educational growth and progress. We want to work with you to help minimize the number of days your student misses school. Here are some helpful ideas:

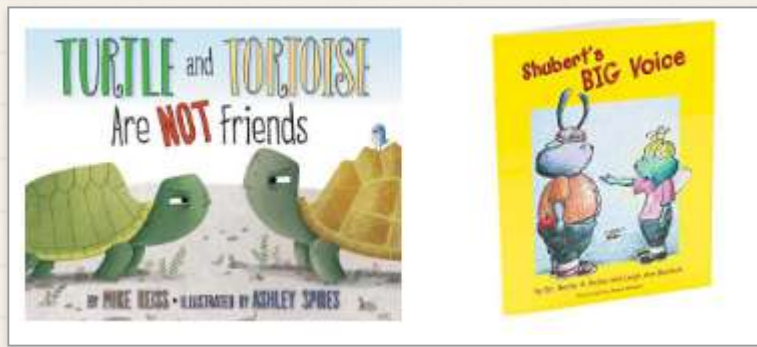
- Avoid letting your child stay home when it is not necessary. Consult with your school's health aide or School Nurse if you aren't sure.
- Communicate with school staff and teachers. The more the school knows about your child's health, the better prepared everyone will be to work together for your child.
- Make appointments in the late afternoon so your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child is absent, be sure you get his/her homework assignments and follow up to see if the work is completed and turned in.

COVID-19

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please follow the CDC guidelines for isolation. When they are cleared to return to school, send in a note for an excused absence.



Barrow County School System



Counselors' Connection

Time flies when you're having fun. Can you believe we are at the end of the 1st 9 weeks of the school year? The month of September has given us the opportunity to work with our students in class lessons, small groups, and individually to strengthen communication skills to resolve conflict and build friendships.

Our Character Strong emphasis this month is RESPONSIBILITY. You can learn about our lessons on responsibility through the parent component that is shared from your child's teacher in their newsletter. Your child is learning that responsibility is taking action and understanding the impact of our choices.

Our lessons this month are focusing on how **responsible** kids can be a good friend and how to use our voice when we have a problem with a friend. Our Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes are learning about communication with friends. We have enjoyed Mike Reiss's book as part of that lesson with Kindergartners while our 1st-3rd graders are learning to practice conversations with friends that are modeled in the book, Shubert's Big Voice, by Leigh Ann Burdick and Becky Bailey. Our fourth and fifth grade students are using classic fairy tales such as The Three Little Pigs to identify conflict and brainstorm solutions. You can help your child practice conflict resolution at home with siblings and peers by coaching them through the same statements we are teaching: *I do not like it when _____*. *Could you please _____*? We love working with your children and watching them problem solve and practice using their powerful words.

Speaking of voices, we want to hear from you and have an opportunity for dialogue with you about how we can strengthen our partnership with you as parents. We ALL want our BES stars to be healthy and successful and believe that occurs when we all work together. More information will be coming soon for our first discussion group in November. Stay tuned!

Ms. Griner & Ms. Layton



NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Information Sessions

Community Meeting

Please join us for a community meeting on Tuesday, October 18. The meeting will be held in the BES Cafeteria from 6:00-7:00. We encourage you to attend to learn more about [the options](#) the district has presented for the new elementary school.



Bethlehem Elementary

Facebook @BES_Stars

Vision: BES provides a high-quality educational experience that inspires and motivates students to become the BEST version of themselves both in and out of the classroom.

Mission: We are dedicated to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment that meets each child's unique academic and social needs.

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